

Racetrack worker killed in single-vehicle accident

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

A Burlington woman who died Thursday night after her SUV struck a tree may have been trying to avoid a rabbit.

Captain Doug Shortt of the Milton Fire Department said a dead rabbit was found near the vehicle.

"There's some speculation that she tried to avoid (the rabbit), and then went off the roadway, (hit) a maple tree with the driver's side and then flipped over," Capt. Shortt said.

Halton police said the woman inside the car, who was pronounced dead at the scene, was 29-year-old Deborah Fowler.

The mother of two was travelling southbound on Guelph Line — north of Derry Road — home from her job at Mohawk Racetrack when her Ford Explorer left the road, Capt. Shortt said.

Just before midnight, a passing motorist was driving northbound on Guelph Line when he noticed a set of headlights in the ditch. He found the SUV rolled over and called police.

Capt. Shortt said he doesn't know how long the SUV had been there before it was spotted.

It also wasn't clear exactly why the SUV had left the road, he said, although roads were wet and there was heavy fog.

"When I arrived, there were police on the road, but I thought, 'Where's the vehicle?' It was so foggy I could just barely make out the flash lights."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Holiday season RIDE program launched to curb drunk driving

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

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Kids aren't the only ones who better watch out this holiday season, because Santa Claus isn't the only one coming to town.

Yesterday the Halton Regional Police began its annual Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program. It'll be running every night this month.

Vehicles can enter a spot check at any time in any place — you just never know where it will be, Sgt. Trevor Hay said.

But most Milton residents don't

mind being stopped, he added.

"People realize the need for it." Last year in Halton, more than 34,000 cars were stopped, and 246 drivers were asked for a screen test. Sixty-three received 12-hour driver's licence suspensions while five received three-month suspensions.

Six people were charged with impaired driving and five were charged with having over 80 mg of alcohol in their blood.

This year, the RIDE program will continue its partnership with MADD Halton, and will also part-

ner with Canadian Blood Services. It's a natural partnership, Sgt. Hay said, because with less drinking and driving, less blood will be needed.

"During the holiday season, there's always a need for extra blood with so many people traveling," Sgt. Hay said.

Canadian Blood Services is distributing information on how and where people can donate blood.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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